in the years 1984-85 and 1985-86, year-wise;

(b) how many such projects have been signed for the agricultural sector during the period;

(c) the states to whom these projects have been distributed; and

(d) how many more much projects with Japanese collaboration are expected to be signed in the year 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The statistical information regarding Foreign Collaborations is maintained calender year-wise. 78 and 108 proposals for foreign collaboration with Japanese firms were approved by Government during the years 1984 and 1985 respectively. The details of all approved foreign collaborations showing the names of Indian and Foreign firms, item of manufacture and nature of collaboration are published on a quarterly basis by Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to its Monthly News Letter. Copies of this publication are sent regularly to Parliament Library.

(d) As approvals are in response to proposals made, no projection is possible.

Loss suffered due to gas flaring

2156. SHRI YELLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 50 per cent of gas is being flared due to lack of equipment for the last 5-6 years and if so, total losses suffered in terms of retail domestic consumer sale price; and

(b) whether Government will fix responsibility in the matter by appointing a Parliamentary Inquiry Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir; Natural Gas is not being flared due to non-availability of bottling equipment for which adequate capacity is available in the country. Natural gas cannot be compressed and stored in cylinders economically like LPG and supplied to retail consumers. It is being flared for reasons such as inadequate compression facilities offshore, inadequate infrastructural facilities downstream, failure of consumers to lift the committed offtake, safey reasons, etc. The total quantity of natural gas that was flared during the year 1984-85, for which figures are available, is 3052 million cubic metres. The notional value of this gas computed at the rate of Rs. 100 per thousand cubic metres, the lowest rate charged within the country, is Rs. 30.52 crores.

(b) No, Sir; with the installation of additional compressors and supply of gas to more consumers, the situation will improve considerably in the coming months.

Fertilizer plants based on HBJ gas Pipeline

2157. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:
DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of fertilizer plants likely to be served by the proposed HBJ gas pipeline;

(b) what is the capital outlay and the expected dates of their completion; and

(c) what is the loss of time and money spent and loss of production due to delay in the execution of HBJ gas pipeline project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The HBJ Gas pipeline will cater to the feedstock requirements of six

fertilizer plants which are bing set up along the pipeline. Their locations, project cost and expected dates of completion as communicated by the Department of fertilizers are given below:

Location	Project cost (in Rs./crores)	Expected date of mechanical completion)
1. Bijaipur	Not finalised	March, 1987
2. Aonla	732·00	January, 1988
3. Jagdishpur	662·60	June, 1988
4. Sawai Madhopur	699·50	January, 1989
5. Babrala	600·00	July, 1989
6. Shahjahanpur	Not finlalised	December, 1989

(c) It is expected that the gas requirements of six fertilizer plants will be met in accordance with their time schedule, and that there will be no loss of production of fertilizers on this account.

Factual Position of coal India Limited

2158. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the profit of Rs. 13.6 crores in 1984-85 claimed by the Coal India Limited (CIL) has actually been turned into a loss of Rs. 78.30 crores;

(b) if so, what is the factual position and how does the profit claimed by CIL turned into a loss; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited had earlier estimated to earn a profit of Rs. 13.83 crores (Provisional) based on the quick estimated made by them in April, 1985 for the year 1984-85. However, with the completion of the statutory audit of the finance accounts of CIL and its subsidiaries in October 1985, it was found to have suffered a loss of Rs. 78.03 crores in 1984-85.

The main variations were wound to be in the accounts of two of its subsidiaries, namely Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Western Coal fields Limited. In BCCL the loss increased by Rs. 60.87 crores while in WCL profit decreased by Rs. 29.01 crores. The Government appointed a high level Task Force which went into the reasons for variation to BCCL's loss reported earlier and actual loss suffered. On the findings of the Task Force, appropriate action has been taken against the officers of BCCL who were found responsible for inaccurate reporting of accounts. In WCL also, an Internal Committee has been constituted to look into the variation in the accounts of the company.

The matter was also reviewed by the Department of Coal and the financial and accounting system of the companies is being streamlined.